

President Clinton waived the economic sanctions on India but kept most of the sanctions against Pakistan in response to the coup. The White House National Security Council noted this difference between the two. So while I am here today and I am very happy about this resolution, I do want to point out that we should have had the other resolution on the floor; and I hope that it will be brought to the floor soon.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for crafting this resolution. I commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his continuing leadership and expertise in crafting appropriate legislation regarding the Asia and Pacific region. I also want to commend our distinguished co-chairman of the India caucus, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), for his efforts to ensure that Indian Americans have a voice on Capitol Hill. It is well known and appreciated that he does that continually.

The President recently waived some of the economic sanctions against India. Two weeks ago, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) and I sent a letter to the President urging that he waive the last remaining economic sanction against India. That sanction requires that the United States oppose international financial institution loans to India. These loans are critically needed for infrastructure projects in the poorest areas of India.

Moreover, a waiver of these loans will benefit U.S. companies that want to work on those projects. India recently went through its third general election in 3 years. That election started on September 5 and it ended October 4. The process took about a month because there were some 600 million voters and thousands of polling stations spread throughout that large nation. It was an orderly process even though it was such a mammoth undertaking.

Our mutual faith in the rule of law, the process of democracy, and the deep respect for the world's different religious traditions are what tie our two peoples so closely together. It is due to these similar core values that India and the United States see eye to eye on so many regional concerns. China's hegemony; the spread of Islamic terrorism spilling out of Afghanistan and Pakistan; the narco-dictatorship in Burma; and the occupation of Tibet. These are all serious matters that will only be resolved by a teamwork of leaders of our two nations working closely together. A closer relationship with India is long overdue. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 211.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the dis-

tinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE).

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time. For many of us, we came of age at a time when India was providing a very independent voice in world councils. For many of us, we grew up reading about Mahatma Gandhi and his contribution to nonviolent resistance and the struggle that he led for independence of the Indian subcontinent. We recognized that India, although a very complex place, was playing a crucial role in the emerging world and respected that role.

I think that it is important for our country to recognize that as the world's largest democracy, representative democracy, that we have a special relationship with India where we may be the longest standing constitutional democracy but India is the largest. And to nurture this relationship, to have our President visit India in his forthcoming travels, is important for the American presence in world affairs. So I would like to join with my colleagues in complimenting India for what it has accomplished, urging it to continue to stay the course, and affirming the friendship and support of this institution for our friends in the Indian subcontinent.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In concluding the discussion on our side, I again would like to urge my colleagues to support this resolution. There is such a sharp contrast between the Communist authorities in China cracking down on a spiritual movement which by nonviolent means expresses the desire for brotherhood among all peoples, the Falun Gong, which has been persecuted, its members imprisoned and beaten, in some cases killed, and the democratic developments in India.

We are indeed fortunate that this large and great country of one billion people has steadfastly adhered to democratic principles ever since its establishment as an independent country. I think we are extremely pleased in this body to be able to pass this resolution, to pay tribute to a fellow democracy, to pay tribute to the Indian people who have recognized the enormous importance of preserving free elections, parliamentary procedures and open society. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 211. I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his re-election. More importantly, I wish to salute the citizens of the Republic of India. With a 60 percent voter turnout, the people of the Republic of India have once again stabilized the largest democracy in the world. In relative political turmoil in the region over the past six months, India has successfully completed a round of national elections. I am continually impressed at the level of polit-

ical activity and involvement of the Indian people. Particularly inspiring is the fact that this involvement spans social and economic classes. While election violence in India has been an issue, the election in October was one of the most peaceful in recent history. The determination of the Indian citizens to be part of the political process and to preserve their parliamentary democracy should serve as an example to democracies around the globe, including the United States. The people of the Republic of India deserve our support and congratulations. Often it seems that our government is more anxious to develop relationships with and provide aid to governments that are not democratic. Sometimes dealing with democracies is more difficult, more complicated. But why wouldn't this be a priority condition to be a valued American friend. I urge members to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 211.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on eight motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which the motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3257, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 222, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 211, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

#### STATE FLEXIBILITY CLARIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3257, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by